P. 008

Appl. No.: 10/507,063

Amendment dated November 28, 2005 Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2005 Page 6

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following remarks, reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as presented are earnestly solicited. Claims 1-13 are pending. In response to the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. In addition, Applicant wishes to confirm the election to prosecute the invention of Claims 1-5. The amendments to the claims find support throughout the Specification and the Drawings, and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is believed that the pending claims now further define patentable subject matter over the references cited by the Examiner and notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Restriction Requirement

Examiner has indicated that the Applicant must affirm the provisional election made via telephone call on June 17, 2005 to prosecute the invention of Group I, including Claims 1-5, drawn to a porous body. In response, the Applicant hereby confirms the election to prosecute the invention of Claims 1-5. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,980,819 to Nakagawa et al. ("Nakagawa"). In response, independent Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite the limitations of Claim 3 depending respectively therefrom, to more clearly indicate patentable aspects of the present invention. Accordingly, Claim 3 has been cancelled. The new recitations of claims 1 and 2 were previously recited, for example, in Claim 3. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

More particularly, Claim 1 has been amended to recite a porous body comprising a number of base particles adhering to one another wherein a larger amount of said adhesion material adheres to contact portions or most adjacent portions of said base particles which are the surfaces of said base particles exposed in the space formed between the base

P. 009

Appl. No.: 10/507,063

Amendment dated November 28, 2005 Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2005

Page 7

particles, and a smaller amount of said adhesion material exists on the remaining surfaces as a plurality of island-shaped dots.

Thus, Claims 1 and 2 now recite a porous body composed of a number of base particles adhering to one another with an adhesion material that is present in larger amounts at portions of the base particles that contact other adjacent base particles. Amended Claims 1 and 2 further recite that the adhesion material is present in smaller amounts (as a plurality of island-shaped dots, for example) on the remaining surfaces of the base particles (i.e., the surfaces of the base particles that are not in contact with one another). The island-shaped dots formed on the remaining surfaces (not in contact with other base particles) thus add to the surface "roughness" or overall surface area of the porous body to increase its cooling capacity when a gas or other fluid is passed therethrough.

Nakagawa does not teach or suggest the application of adhesion material that is present in larger amounts at portions of the base particles that contact other adjacent base particles. Furthermore, Nakagawa does not teach or suggest that the adhesion material is present in smaller amounts (as a plurality of island-shaped dots, for example) on the remaining surfaces of the base particles (i.e., the surfaces of the base particles that are not in contact with one unother). The Applicants respectfully submit that for a rejection to be proper under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the cited reference must "teach every element of the [rejected] claim." See MPEP §2131.

In contrast, Nakagawa generally discloses that the coating material should evenly coat the non-contact portions of the base particles such that the lubricious coating material provides "a boundary lubrication condition where a shaft and the sintered body are in direct contact with each other" (See Nakagawa, at column 1, lines 64-67). Thus, in order to provide a lubricious bearing surface, Nakagawa teaches against the provision of a smaller amount of copper coating material on portions of base particles that are not adjacent to one another. Instead, Nakagawa discloses an oil-impregnated hearing wherein the copper coating is more preferably present "where a shall and the sintered body are in direct contact with each other." See Nakagawa, column 1, lines 65-66. The sintered oil-impregnated bearing disclosed by Nakagawa would be ill-suited for providing an adhesion material that is present in larger amounts at contact portions or most adjacent portions of the base particles forming the sintered body, as the bearing structure disclosed by Nakagawa necessarily provides a greater amount of

RTA01/2193952v1

Appl. No.: 10/507,063

Amendment dated November 28, 2005 Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2005 Page 8

adhesion material at a bearing surface of the bearing assembly so as to prevent seizure of a motor utilizing the bearing. See Nakagawa, at column 6, lines 59-65. Thus, Nakagawa teaches away from the provision of larger amounts of adhesion material adhering to contact portions or most adjacent portions of base particles as now recited in amended Claims I and 2.

Thus, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 1 and 2 are patentably distinct from Nakagawa. In addition, the pending claims 4 and 5, depending from amended Claims 1 and 2 are patentably distinct from Nakagawa for at least the same reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Nakagawa does not teach, suggest, or provide metivation for the embodiments of the present invention, as now claimed in Claims 1 and 2 and the claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, in view of the above differences between the Applicants' invention and the cited reference, the Applicant submits that the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, is patentable over the reference cited in the Office Action. As such, for the reasons set forth above, Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Appl. No.: 10/507,063
Amendment dated November 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2005
Page 9

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200 Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below. 11/28/05 Rebecca Kerney Date